

FIRST DAY

MORNING MEETING

The opening session of the conference began at 10 o'clock, Friday, April 6th, 1928.

The great auditorium and galleries were comfortably filled with people from all parts of the Church.

President Heber J. Grant presided.

The congregation sang the hymn, "We thank thee, O God, for a prophet."

The opening prayer was offered by Elder Richard C. May, President of the Minidoka Stake.

Brother J. H. Wood sang a solo, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

It is certainly an inspiring sight to see this magnificent audience in attendance here this morning at the ninety-eighth anniversary of the birth of the Church. When I contemplate the fact that just a handful of people were in the Church ninety-eight years ago (the organization was effected with six members) and that now there are over a half million members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I am reminded of the very wonderful revelation given to the father of the prophet over a year before the organization of the Church:

"Now behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men.

"Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.

"Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work;

"For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul;

"And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work.

"Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence.

"Ask and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you."

This audience testifies to the fact that a marvelous work and a wonder has been established. It testifies to the diligence of those who have gone forth by the thousands and tens of thousands during the last ninety-eight years, proclaiming the gospel in all parts of the world.

I had not the slightest idea of reading this revelation when I first stood up.

It has always been customary at our annual conferences to give a little account of the activities of the Church during the past year.

CHANGES IN STAKE AND MISSION OFFICERS SINCE LAST OCTOBER
CONFERENCE

(Those who have been released have been released with the love, blessings and good will of the authorities of the Church and of the people where they reside.)

Stake Presidents Appointed: Uriah G. Miller has been honorably released as president of the Cottonwood stake, and Henry D. Moyle appointed to succeed him.

Samuel W. Parkinson has been honorably released as president of the Franklin stake, and Walter K. Barton appointed to succeed him.

Joseph R. Murdock has been honorably released as president of the Wasatch stake, and David A. Broadbent appointed to succeed him.

John E. Magleby has been honorably released as president of the South Sevier stake, and appointed president of the New Zealand mission. A new stake president has not yet been sustained.

Mission Presidents Appointed: Apostle James E. Talmage has been released as president of the European mission, and Apostle John A. Widtsoe appointed to succeed him.

Andrew Johnson has been released as president of the Swedish mission, and Gideon N. Hulterstrom appointed to succeed him.

J. Howard Jenkins has been released as president of the New Zealand mission, and John E. Magleby appointed to succeed him.

John M. Knight has been released as president of the Western States mission, and Elias S. Woodruff appointed to succeed him.

John H. Taylor has been released as president of the Northern States mission, and Noah S. Pond appointed to succeed him.

Hugh J. Cannon has been released as president of the Swiss and German mission, and Fred Tadge appointed to succeed him.

New Wards Organized: Manchester ward, Los Angeles stake; Temple ward, Maricopa stake; Idaho Falls First and Second wards, Idaho Falls stake, divided into four wards to be known as Idaho Falls First, Second, Third and Fourth wards; Phoenix ward, Maricopa stake, divided into two wards to be known as the Phoenix First and Second wards; Solomonville ward, St. Joseph stake, formerly an independent branch; Ocean Park ward, Hollywood stake, divided into two wards. The name of Ocean Park ward changed to Santa Monica, and the new ward known as Mar Vista ward.

Bishops Who Have Died: Hyrum M. Lau of Soda Springs ward, Idaho stake; Henry J. Bodily, of the Iona ward, Idaho Falls stake; Alfred R. Wilson of Payson first ward, Nebo stake.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following is a list of expenditures from the tithes of the Church for the year 1927:

Stake and Ward Purposes

There has been returned from the tithes to the stakes and wards for building construction, maintenance and operation,\$2,041,920.46
(Of this amount there has been expended for meeting houses alone \$1,062,163.84.)

Education

Expended for the construction and operation of Church Schools 805,117.84

Temples

Expended for the construction, maintenance and operation of temples 230,110.77

Charities

For care of the worthy poor and other charitable purposes, including hospital treatment 196,119.48

Missions

For maintenance and operation of all the missions, and for the erection of places of worship and other buildings in the missions 767,647.80

Total\$4,040,916.35

This amount has been taken from the tithes and returned by the Trustee-in-Trust to the Saints for the maintenance and operation of the stakes, and wards, for the maintenance and operation of Church schools and temples, for charities, and for mission activities.

Other Charities—In addition to charities paid from the tithes, as before named, there has also been disbursed the fast offerings, other charities and assistance rendered by the Relief Society, in the sum of \$441,575.89, which amount, added to the \$196,119.48, paid from the tithes, makes the total charity assistance rendered by the Church, \$637,695.37.

There has been collected by the various wards of the Church and paid to missionaries to assist in their maintenance, \$98,143.56.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS COMPILED FROM CHURCH RECORDS
FOR THE YEAR 1927

We have at the present time: Stakes of Zion, 99; Wards, 938; Independent branches, 72. Total wards and branches in the stakes of Zion, from Canada to Mexico, 1010; Missions, 27; Mission branches 757.

Church Growth—Children blessed and entered on the records of the Church in the stakes and missions, 19,209.

Children baptized in the stakes and missions, 14,604.

Converts baptized and entered on the records of the stakes and missions, 6367.

Number of long-term missionaries from Zion, December 31,
1927 1,943

Number of short-term missionaries from Zion, December 31,
1927 122

Number of local missionaries 108

Total number of missionaries on foreign missions.....2,173

Number engaged in missionary work in stakes.....1,032

Total missionaries3,205

Number of missionaries who received training at the Mission-
ary Home 985

Persons recommended to the temples, 61,567.

Social Statistics—Birth rate, 30 per thousand:

Marriage rate, 14.5 per thousand.

Death rate, 7.5 per thousand.

Families owning their own homes, 70 per cent.

Church Edifices—The number of sites purchased for Church build-
ings, and the number of edifices purchased, or under construction during
1927: Stakes and wards, 119; Missions, 32. Total 151.

Church Education—Number of persons enrolled in Church schools,
3,851; Number of persons enrolled in seminaries, 10,835; Number of
persons enrolled in religion classes, 61,131. Total number receiving
week-day religious education, 75,817.

During the year the very efficient man who stood at the head
of our educational system for a number of years, Dr. Adam S. Bennion,
has been honorably released, with appreciation for his most splendid
work, and Dr. Joseph F. Merrill has been made the commissioner of
education for the Church. Dr. Merrill has been associated with the
University of Utah for many years as one of the deans of that great
institution.

Teacher training (average attendance, 1927) 10,670.

During the last six months the clerk of our general conferences, and
the editor of the *Improvement Era*, Elder Edward H. Anderson,
has passed away, than whom no more capable, faithful, diligent,
God-fearing man has ever been engaged in the service of the Lord
in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Brother Hugh
J. Cannon, now presiding over the Swiss and German mission, has
been selected to succeed Brother Anderson as the editor of the *Im-
provement Era*—a most splendid successor to a most splendid man.

I feel that we have great cause to be grateful for the blessings of
the Lord to us as a people.

IMPRESSED WITH HYMN

I was profoundly impressed this morning in listening to the congre-